

Aspendell South Fork Volunteer Fire Department

Tax ID #61-1730953, a 501(c)(3) tax exempt charitable non-profit organization

NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2018

Winter has come to the Bishop Creek drainage; snowfall at the end of November was about 20 inches! We hope that this is a sign of a coming wet winter season. As we approach the holidays, we again want to express our sincere thanks for your generous donations. The ASFVFD simply cannot persist without your support.

First, some reminders regarding the Proper Disposal of Ashes and Fire Hydrant Snow Clearance

- 1) Please remember to have your fireplaces/stoves inspected and cleaned before winter use. Proper disposal of ashes is also critical. ***Please*** remember to **TREAT ALL ASHES AND COALS AS HOT**. Store ashes and partially burned pieces of wood in a ***covered metal container*** for several days before disposal so that you are certain that the material is cold and that no embers remain. **Do not use a combustible container**, and do not place combustible items in the container. **Do not place ashes in an available dumpster unless and until you are certain that they are cold. The best option would be to leave them in a covered metal container until summer!** *Please convey this information to family and friends* who may use your home. Please see the asfvfd.org web site for a notice you can print and post in your home. This is a vital fire safety practice.
- 2) Regarding hydrant access, structure fires are equally likely during the winter and summer seasons, so it is important to maintain access to fire hydrants year-round. If you see snow (or a vehicle) obstructing a fire hydrant, your help clearing it would be greatly appreciated. Please also see the Inyo County letter at www.asfvfd.org/snow-removal.pdf . In the event of a structure fire, your efforts may make the difference in whether your own or your neighbor's home can be saved!

ASFVFD Services

In the course of our training and response activities, and based on discussions with members of our South Fork and Aspendell communities, it became clear that an explicit statement of the ASFVFD services to be provided was necessary to avoid any misunderstanding of our response capabilities and responsibilities. On August 18, 2018, the ASFVFD Board approved that Services Statement, which is shown in full on the attached sheet. A brief explanation follows.

First, it is essential to remember that the ASFVFD is not a public agency. The ASFVFD is an incorporated, private, 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization funded solely by member donations. The ASFVFD Board and emergency responders are all volunteers, serving as Good Samaritans seeking to provide often-critical initial response until the publicly funded response professionals arrive. The ASFVFD must be regarded as only a supplement to the professional responders provided by Inyo County (Symons Ambulance), CalFire and the US Forest Service. Bishop Volunteer Fire Department has no obligation to respond in our area, although the Dept. has on occasion generously dispatched equipment/volunteers upon request. The ASFVFD is simply not funded to provide full- or even part-time, on-call professional responders. Further, the demographics of our communities (our small, older and largely intermittent population) limit our ability to attract volunteers. That said, we have a small but very dedicated core group of volunteers committed to regular training and to providing initial response in emergencies, when available. In short, the ASFVFD must be viewed as a supplement to the professional response services. ASFVFD volunteers will respond if available to provide initial response to fire and medical

emergencies within the limits of our training and equipment, and the commitment of our volunteers to act as Good Samaritans.

With this in mind, we strongly encourage you to develop your own household-based emergency response plan and to acquire equipment as needed to support that plan. A good example is an AED (automatic external defibrillator), readily available from retailers such as Costco, Walmart and Amazon and many others. Our volunteers have responded over the past year to a number of incidents involving the use of an AED. Having an AED in your own home, and taking the training necessary to use it and to perform CPR, are wise investments of your time and money. Online training on CPR and AED use is available through the American Heart Association. You can take this online training on a schedule that suits your needs. Skills development sessions at a local hospital (e.g., Northern Inyo Hospital) are required to complete the training.

As some of you may know, the ASFVFD recently conducted CPR/AED training in Aspendell; we expect to schedule more training events for both ASFVFD volunteers and members of the communities. In addition, the ASFVFD has committed to the purchase of **an AED** that will be housed at the Aspendell firehouse and (when a suitable location is identified) in South Fork for ready access by members of the communities.

Please read the Services Statement below carefully, and feel free to contact us at asfvfd@asfvfd.org with questions and comments.

Once again, the ASFVFD is entirely dependent on your continuing donations and commitment to support training and equipment purchases, and the "routine" expenditures associated with running the Department (rent, utilities, insurance, etc.).

We have also attached a supporting membership donor stub and enclosed an envelope to simplify the donation process. Checks can be made out to the ASFVFD and mailed to us at 111 Columbine Drive, Bishop, CA 93514. We offer our most sincere thanks in advance. *We'd like to acknowledge those thanks publicly; if you are willing to be identified as a contributor, **please initial the "yes" blank on the donation form.** Otherwise, please initial the "no" blank.*

Volunteers Still Needed: We still need volunteer firefighters, particularly in the South Fork area. We also need volunteers engaged in administrative, committee, fundraising, grant solicitations, and web page design activities. If you have ideas for fundraisers or especially if you are willing to help to set-up/oversee such an event, please email us at asfvfd@asfvfd.org . If you have other skills you would like to offer, again, please email us. We also welcome your comments and recommendations.

With our sincere thanks, the ASFVFD Board of Directors: President, Roy Harthorn, Vice President, Michael McBeth, Treasurer David Woody, Secretary, Joanne Schneider, Member at Large (position vacant).

***** detach here *****

Donations: Checks can be made out to the **Aspendell South Fork Volunteer Fire Dept.** and sent to us at 111 Columbine Drive, Bishop, CA 93514. A self-addressed stamped envelope is enclosed for your convenience. Thank you!
\$75 ___ **\$100** ___ **\$200** ___ **\$500** ___ **Other \$** ___ **Caretaker Apt. \$** ___ **Other training \$** ___

Name: _____ Address: _____

Aspendell – South Fork Address: _____

I am willing to be listed as a contributor to the ASFVFD in mailings to the community: **Yes** _____ **No** _____ (the amount will not be identified)
(initial either yes or no)

I am interested in volunteering in the support of ASFVFD (note expertise) _____